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WAYS AND MEANS OF RAISING AN ENDOWMENT FUND FOR A CHAIR OF HOSPITAL ECONOMICS.

BY MRS. L. E. GREYER

Principal of The Farrand Training-school, Harper Hospital, Detroit

DURING the years since there has existed in this Society a Committee on the Hospital Economics Course, every report of that committee has emphasized the importance of the need of the course and the evidences of its value. In every report there has furthermore been an earnest appeal for necessary funds to develop and maintain this course. Its origin was a far-sighted movement. It was in the creative mind of Mrs. Robb, as you all know, that the idea had its inception. She was one who had a vision of the great possibilities of the profession of nursing. She saw that in order to realize higher education and a uniform curriculum for nurses, the superintendents of training-schools for nurses must become better qualified to teach. She promulgated a plan, which met with a responsive and active sympathy from other superintendents, many of whom have given of their time, labor, and money toward the organization and establishment of the course. The need of broader training, of a deeper knowledge, and of scientific methods of imparting knowledge, has, I am sure, been keenly felt by many of us who have the responsibility of teaching and training nurses. Experience is a great teacher, but it is not sufficient to meet the standards of education which must be advanced in order to establish nursing on a professional basis. Much time and energy are consumed in acquiring any knowledge of the principles and methods of teaching, solely by experience. To be most effective, experience should be combined with scientific training.

We who have had only our experience as a guide in groping our way, should give our unqualified support to a movement which will enable those who profit by it, to carry on the education of nurses far beyond the point to which we have brought it. This is a movement which should interest not only superintendents of training-schools, but every nurse in the profession. There is not one of us who is not in a position to make a direct appeal to at least a few nurses, and in this way endeavor to arouse an enthusiastic interest on the part of the many. By giving every nurse the opportunity to assume her share of responsibility in raising the fund, we would be using the most effective means of raising the educational standard of nursing. We want the one hundred thousand dollars to

establish the chair, but we want above all else to develop in our profession that spirit which shall be keen to discern, and quick to grasp every opportunity of furthering true education.

The great object which is before us, because of its high aim and universal significance, furnishes us with the opportunity for that concerted action which is a powerful factor in creating this spirit. The plan suggested by Miss Palmer in the *JOURNAL* a few years ago, that every graduate nurse in the country contribute to the fund the sum of three dollars, or an equivalent of one day's earnings, is practical. In Michigan a movement was begun to work along that line through the State Association, at its first annual meeting in Grand Rapids in March, 1905. A very able paper, setting forth the object, was read by one of the members, and her arguments in favor of it were most convincing. The result was that a committee was formed then and there to start the work at once. The committee was composed of representatives from the various alumnae associations and nurses' societies throughout the state. They decided that through their own personal efforts, and through the local sub-committees, which were formed later in the various associations, a direct, personal appeal would be made to every nurse in the state for the sum of a day's earnings. A circular letter and a blank form for the convenience of the contributor and the collector, were sent to every nurse in the state. They read as follows:

DEAR MADAM:

To further facilitate the raising of a fund towards the endowment of a chair in Hospital Economics at Teachers' College, Columbia University, the Michigan State Nurses' Association has decided upon a systematic plan for concerted action whereby each graduate nurse may be given the opportunity to do his or her share in the matter.

The total amount required to be raised by the graduate nurses of the United States for this purpose is \$50,000.00.

The amount asked for per individual is \$3.00.

- (1) If you belong to a Nurses' Club or Alumnae Association you are asked to help make an organized effort for this purpose;
- (2) If you do not, you are asked to make your personal contribution towards it;
- (3) Whether you belong to an organization, or are simply an individual worker, you are asked to try and get the support of all graduate nurses who are not identified with any association;
- (4) All money raised for this purpose shall be sent to the Treasurer of The Michigan State Nurses' Association, Miss Mary Fletcher, Grand Rapids, Mich.;
- (5) Kindly send the money either by registered letter, postoffice money order or New York draft.

Such individual effort will make the concerted action that will assure success. This is your opportunity towards the permanent establishment of means that will assure higher standards and more uniform methods in our profession.

M. E. SMITH

CHAIRMAN WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

Approved

S. E. SLY, President.

FORM OF MICHIGAN STATE NURSES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND FOR
THE COURSE IN HOSPITAL ECONOMICS, TEACHERS' COLLEGE,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK CITY.

Name of Sender

Address of Sender.....

Total Amount Sent.....

Form in Which Sent.....

(Registered Letter, P. O. Money Order, New York Draft.)

Kindly remit all collected by April 15, 1905, to Miss Mary Fletcher, to give time to make report at the Associated Alumnae meeting, to be held in Washington the first week in May.

Make out and keep duplicate copy of this form as filled out and signed by the sender.

Signed.....

Address.....

Sender.

Date.....

The response was encouraging. The sum contributed within two months was \$238.25. Up to the present date it has been increased to \$517. Included in this sum there are some collective contributions. The Alumnae Association of the University Hospital gave \$12, and later added \$24.13, which was the surplus of the money for their entertainment of the State Association, which met in Ann Arbor in May, 1906. The Graduate Nurses' Association of Jackson donated \$39. The Grand Rapids Nurses' Club gave a card party, and contributed \$18, which were their net proceeds. The Wayne County Graduate Nurses' Association donated \$100, which was a part of the balance on hand after the entertainment of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae in Detroit in June, 1906.

The privilege of contributing to this worthy cause is presented to the members of every new graduating class in our training-school. The response to their opportunity has been favorable enough to encourage me to recommend that means to other superintendents. The nurses in Michigan are fortunate in having had as a leader in this movement Miss

Mary E. Smith. Her successful work in so many lines of educational and professional advancement inspired us all with a faith in the success of this undertaking. Her removal from our ranks by sudden death at her post of duty, a few months ago, has saddened our hearts, but we have the rich legacy of her fine example. It will serve to give us a larger faith, and a deeper understanding of the powerful influence of a noble womanly character. In a letter written to me shortly before she died, she made these statements, which, being impersonal, I may be permitted to quote: "I feel that it is so well within the power of the graduate nurses of the United States to endow their own chair of hospital economics that the work ought to be well pushed. It would be a lasting monument to their belief in the higher education of nurses—and they would be so proud of it! It would create an *esprit de corps* of inestimable worth. Were I actively engaged in the profession I certainly would throw myself heart and soul into that effort. I am as convinced to-day as I was when I first wrote to you that it can be done. The thought came to me as a true inspiration, and my confidence in it is just as great—no, greater, than when it first came. I have had ample time for reflection, and I know it is thoroughly practical. I hope you will keep the matter stirring in Michigan."

The movement certainly will be kept stirring in Michigan! The beginning that has been made toward the achievement of our great purpose is, we believe, an earnest of its final accomplishment. In order to attain the object I feel impelled to urge with great emphasis that we secure now the hearty co-operation and the concerted action of this Society, of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae, of every state and alumnae association, and of every individual member of the nursing profession in the United States.

